

Request for Proposals: In accordance with 43 TAC §25.901, et seq., the Texas Department of Transportation is requesting project proposals to support the traffic safety goals and strategies of the program areas listed below. These goals and strategies are the basis for the FY 2004 Highway Safety Performance Plan. As alcohol-related crashes are the leading cause of traffic fatalities in Texas, proposals to directly reduce driving while impaired are especially sought.

Projects to improve occupant protection use are also highly desired. Proposals for occupant protection projects that will provide a 50 percent cost share in year 1 and 75 percent cost share in years 2 and 3 will be eligible for special funding. Each proposal must state which goal(s) and strategy(ies) for the Highway Safety Plan (HSP) program area it will support. Projects to develop an employer based traffic safety education network are desired. Eligible organizations are state and local governments, educational institutions, and public or non-profit organizations. Eligible, non-governmental organizations are subject to a pre-award audit prior to any grant approval. Proposals are due no later than 5 p.m., December 16, 2002.

Project Selection Process: The Texas HSP is developed through a strategic performance planning process, with the selection of projects based on problem identification, project selection, and review of proposals. Traffic safety managers will review and evaluate each proposal for applicability to Texas' traffic safety problems. Each qualifying project proposal will be scored against a number of selected criteria. Criteria include strength of problem identification supported with verifiable, current and applicable documentation of the state or local traffic safety problem (limited to a maximum of 350 words); quality of the proposed solution plan (limited to a maximum of 350 words); realistic performance goals; time-framed action plan; cost eligibility; amount of matching funding proposed, and necessity and reasonableness of budget. 100% match is required for proposals that include the purchase and distribution of child passenger safety seats or other occupant protection devices and supplies. Proposals for Comprehensive and Safe & Sober Selective Traffic Enforcement Projects (STEPs) must not include more than 50% speed enforcement. Proposals for education, training or presentations using public schools must include written support from target schools that end product will be included in curriculum and verification of coordination and commitment from the Texas Education Agency. Proposals for the development or implementation of educational or offender courses must be submitted by the responsible state agency or responsible training organization. Separate documents with information pertaining to the submitting agency's qualifications, commitment, availability of external resources, task force associations, or previous traffic safety or related experience may also be attached or included with the proposal. Once the scoring process is complete, proposed projects are assigned priority for available funding. Selected proposals will become projects in the Texas HSP expected to begin in federal fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003). Eligible and worthwhile projects may be initiated prior to this date if sufficient funding is available. Proposals selected for inclusion in the FY 2004 HSP become cost reimbursable grants-in-aid agreements, and contracts. Contracts with vendors will be made through the state purchasing process, not through this request for proposal process. All information resource-related activities will be subject to TxDOT information resource procurement procedures.

HSP Review and Approval: The HSP will be submitted to the Transportation Commission for approval. Upon approval, the HSP is submitted to the Governor's Office and forwarded to the federal

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government for review and comment.

HSP Implementation: The HSP becomes operational on October 1 of every year. Funds are to be used to support State problem identification, planning and implementation of a program to reduce crashes, deaths and injuries on Texas roadways. The traffic safety program is designed to implement worthwhile projects to be assumed by the sponsoring agency, not as financial support for continuing operation. Therefore, in an effort to preserve the "seed" money concept, Texas Traffic Safety Program project grant agreements supported with non-dedicated federal funds are limited to the length of the proposed grant period and usually do not receive extended funding beyond three years. Also, "supplanting" (use of federal funds to support personnel or an activity that is already supported by local or state funds) is prohibited. Funding is also provided from state, local, and other federal and private sources.

HSP Program Areas and Goals: Proposals are being solicited for the following program areas, goals and strategies:

1. **Police Traffic Services:** selective traffic enforcement projects to apprehend reckless drivers, enforce posted speed limits and other traffic law violations, and specialized training for traffic law enforcement officers and judicial system officials

✍ **Goal:**

To increase effective enforcement and adjudication of traffic safety related laws to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes

To increase enforcement of traffic laws for commercial vehicles

✍ **Strategies:**

Increase enforcement of traffic safety-related laws and the adjudication of all traffic law violations

Increase training in traffic law enforcement (TLE) and adjudication

Increase TLE technical and managerial support to local enforcement agencies and highway safety professionals

2. **Alcohol and Other Drug Countermeasures:** STEPs to apprehend impaired drivers, specialized law enforcement and judicial training, public information programs on impaired driving, various youth alcohol education programs promoting traffic safety. Proposals are specifically sought for projects to establish and maintain a liaison between the Texas Department of Transportation and local law enforcement agencies, drug impairment training for educational professionals, and training in evaluation and classification of drug impaired drivers for law enforcement officers

✍ **Goals:**

To decrease the number of drivers under age 21 involved in DWI-related crashes

To reduce DWI-involved crashes, fatalities and injuries

✍ **Strategies:**

Increase alcohol and other drug traffic safety enforcement

Increase alcohol and other drug detection awareness training for traffic safety advocates

Enhance the state alcohol offender education programs

Coordinate and/or conduct public information and education

Improve the coordination and administration of DWI by between law enforcement and the judiciary at the community level

3. Emergency Medical Services: traffic safety related training for rural emergency medical service providers, public education, and injury prevention
 - ✍ Goal:
To improve EMS care and support provided to motor vehicle crash trauma victims in rural areas
 - ✍ Strategies:
To increase the availability of EMS training in rural areas
Increase EMS involvement in local community safety efforts
4. Occupant Protection: STEPs and comprehensive programs to promote correct usage of safety belts and child safety seats, use surveys, and evaluations
 - ✍ Goal:
To increase overall and correct occupant protection use
 - ✍ Strategies:
Increase enforcement of occupant protection laws
Provide occupant protection training and education
Promote and support occupant protection projects at the community level
Increase public information and education campaigns
Conduct evaluation of results of occupant protection use
5. Traffic Records: single or joint efforts to improve the collection and dissemination of state or local traffic safety data
 - ✍ Goals:
To improve the timeliness, accuracy, quality, and availability of crash record data.
To improve linkages between traffic records databases
To improve the data collection of trauma data statewide
 - ✍ Strategies:
Develop a new traffic crash records information system
Support traffic crash analysis efforts
Support implementation of an EMS data system and data links to traffic records
6. Roadway Safety: traffic safety and/or traffic engineering education.
 - ✍ Goals:
To decrease work zone traffic crash-related fatalities and injuries by identifying roadway safety problems
To increase knowledge of roadway safety and current technologies among people involved in engineering, construction, and maintenance areas at both the state and local level
 - ✍ Strategies:
Provide traffic safety problem identification and training to local jurisdictions
Conduct program assessment of Roadway Safety
7. Motorcycle Safety: public education to increase helmet use and reduce the number of motorcycle crashes
 - ✍ Goal:
To reduce the number of motorcycle-related fatalities and serious injuries
 - ✍ Strategies:

Conduct public information and education efforts

Evaluate, assess, and communicate motorcycle injury and fatality trends

8. Planning and Administration: Effective and efficient management of the Texas Traffic Safety Program

✍ Goals:

Provide the operation and administration of the Texas Traffic Safety Program in compliance with state and federal laws, regulations and procedures

Ensure the TxDOT policies and procedures for operation of the Traffic Safety Program are current

✍ Strategies:

Provide and comply with procedures for highway safety planning, project and program development, and program implementation

9. Safe Communities: traffic safety problem identification, plan development, and program implementation for selected cities and counties

✍ Goal:

To prevent traffic related fatalities and injuries through establishing integrated community traffic safety programs

✍ Strategies:

Provide training programs on how to initiate and conduct community based programs

Support the Safe Communities process

Provide management support to implement community traffic safety programs

10. Driver Education and Behavior: driver education, and public information and education efforts to reduce risky traffic behaviors likely to endanger people or property

✍ Goal:

To increase public knowledge, perception and understanding of traffic safety

✍ Strategies:

Develop and implement public information and education efforts on traffic safety issues and programs

Provide assistance to update driver's education curriculum

Conduct and assist local, state and national traffic safety campaigns

Provide opportunities for traffic safety advocates to increase their knowledge of programs and issues

11. Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety: traffic law enforcement, public education and community programs

✍ Goals:

To decrease motor vehicle-related pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and injuries

To increase pedestrian and bicycle safety knowledge and awareness

✍ Strategies:

Identify problem locations/areas where conflict between motor vehicles and pedestrians/bicycles is high.

Promote public information and education efforts and training to lessen the motor vehicle/pedestrian/bicycle potential for conflict

12. Commercial Vehicle Safety: traffic law enforcement and public education programs dealing with large commercial vehicles

✍ Goals:

To increase traffic safety knowledge, perception, understanding, and skills for sharing the roadway with commercial vehicles

To increase enforcement of traffic laws for commercial vehicles.

✍ Strategies:

Provide information and education materials to educate the public on sharing the road with commercial vehicles

Incorporate commercial vehicle PI&E materials into the driver-training curriculum

Develop partnerships with commercial vehicle industry to increase traffic safety

Increase enforcement of traffic safety laws for commercial vehicles

Project Proposals: Current project proposal application forms and instructions, plus other related documents are available at www.dot.state.tx.us/trafficsafety/grants, or upon request by contacting the Traffic Operations Division, Traffic Safety Section, attention Mr. Bill Strawn at 512/416-2613 or from the Traffic Safety Specialist at the nearest TxDOT district office. Proposals may be submitted in writing, or electronically under the electronic signature key of an authorized official, to the nearest TxDOT District Office, Attention: Traffic Safety Specialist or mailed directly to Susan N. Bryant, Traffic Operations Division, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483.

Authority and Responsibility: The traffic safety grant derives from the National Highway Safety Act of 1966 (23 USC §401, et seq.), and the Texas Traffic Safety Act of 1967 (Transportation Code, Chapter 723). An integral part of the Texas Department of Transportation and working through the department's 25 districts for local projects, the program is administered at the state level by the Department's Traffic Operations Division. The Executive Director of the Department is the designated Governor's Highway Safety Representative.

Issued in Austin, Texas on September 18, 2002.

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Texas Department of Transportation